DGS CIRCULAR No. 13 OF 2021

Subject: Maritime Advisory on sign-off of seafarers during second wave of COVID-19

The second wave of COVID-19 pandemic in India has led to re-imposition of movement restrictions to and from India by several countries.

The spread of coronavirus and the cross-border movement restrictions imposed by these countries has made repatriation of seafarers unsafe and difficult once they sign off at foreign ports. It has also become difficult to provide replacement seafarers for those signing off.

In view of the above, Indian seafarers presently on board are strongly advised to desist from signing off from the vessel, except in case of extreme emergency/medical exigencies, for a period of one month or till the situation improves.

The seafarer whose tenure on board is going to exceed 11 months are required to intimate to this Directorate using the online repatriation request portal for further advice.

This issues with the approval of the Director General of Shipping and Additional Secretary to the Government of India.

(Date and Signature)

Deputy Director General of Shipping (Crew)